

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A distributed platform for co-ordinating user access to information provided by content service providers, the platform comprising:

- (a) a user interface;
- (b) a first advertising board for advertising services of information brokers;
- (c) a first searching agent for searching the first advertising board for services

based on the request from the user;

(d) a second advertising board for advertising the services of information content suppliers;

(e) a second searching agent for searching the second advertising board for available services based on results of the search of the first advertising ~~means~~ board and the request from the user, and

(f) means for providing the results of the search of the second advertising means to the user.

8. (currently amended) A distributed platform as ~~elaimed~~ in claim 7, wherein the first and second advertising boards are distributed.

9. (currently amended) A distributed platform as ~~elaimed~~-in claim 7, wherein a plurality of first and second advertising boards are provided each of which advertises the services available in a particular market.

10. (currently amended) A distributed platform as ~~elaimed~~-in claim 7, wherein means are provided for interrogating the user to determine specific preferences.

11. (currently amended) A distributed platform as ~~elaimed~~-in claim 10, wherein the specific preferences comprise where and/or how and/or when the information found by the second searching means, is to be communicated to the user.

12. (currently amended) A distributed platform as ~~elaimed~~-in claim 7, wherein a banking agent is provided for monitoring all financial transactions that take place as a result of the request from the user, between the information brokers and the information content suppliers.

13. (currently amended) A distributed platform as ~~elaimed~~-in claim 12, wherein each user has an account that is monitored by the banking agent is up-dated as soon as response to a request for information is accepted for delivery to the user.

14. (currently amended) A distributed platform as ~~elaimed~~-in claim ~~17~~, wherein a marketing agent is provided for setting up the first and second advertising boards and subsequent boards introduced onto the platform.

15. (currently amended) A distributed platform as ~~elaimed~~-in claim 14, wherein the marketing agent arranges the boards according to the type of services being marketed thereon.

16. (original) A distributed platform for co-ordinating user access to information provided by content service providers, the platform comprising:

- (a) a user interface;
- (b) a content service provider advertising board for advertising services of content service providers;
- (c) a first searching agent for searching the content service provider advertising board for services, based on the request from the user; and
- (d) means for providing the results of the search of the content service provider advertising board to the user.

17. (currently amended) A distributed platform for co-ordinating user access to information provided by content service providers, the platform comprising:

- (a) a user interface;

(b) a content service provider advertising board for advertising services of content service providers;

(c) a first searching agent for searching the content service provider advertising board for services, based on the request from the user;

(d) means for providing the results of the search of the content service provider advertising board to the user;

~~A distributed platform as claimed in claim 16, further including:~~

~~(a)~~(e) a broker advertising board for advertising the services of brokers that act as intermediaries between the content service provider and the user; and

~~(b)~~(f) a second searching agent for searching the broker advertising board for available services based on the request from the user,

wherein the second searching agent identifies a suitable broker and the first searching agent is associated with that identified broker.

18.-26.(canceled)